



AETC News Clips

Randolph AFB, Texas



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Alert System Attracts Attention

By Rita Boland

May 2006

 EMAIL ARTICLE  PRINT ARTICLE

Editor's Note: This is a revised version of the article that appeared in the May 2006 issue of SIGNAL.



Staff Sgt. Bob Abujen, USAF, command post senior controller, Air Education and Training Command, makes an announcement over the Giant Voice system from the Randolph Air Force Base Command Center.

System's visual and audio signals facilitate widespread information dissemination.

Technology is enabling base commanders and command post personnel to send out alerts in emergency situations more quickly. The new warning systems, being installed on several U.S. military bases, use the base network to reach every communications device connected to the network while tying in more traditional alert components such as public address systems and telephony.

To comply with U.S. Air Force Instruction 10-2501, which mandates that bases have a full-spectrum threat response installation warning system, the U.S. Air Education and Training Command (AETC), Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, is setting up a networked alerting system as part of a three-pronged installation warning system (IWS). Designed for use in emergency situations, the alerting system gives installations within the command the ability to reach any base personnel

plugged into the base network via computer, personal digital assistant (PDA), cell phone or other communications device.

The AETC chose AtHoc IWSAlerts version 6.1, a public key infrastructure-encrypted system, as its networked alerting system. The software, developed by AtHoc Incorporated, Burlingame, California, combines a visual pop-up window that appears over any computer program or computer desktop with an audio component to draw attention to the message. PDAs also receive a similar notice, and cell phones ring, vibrate and receive a text message.

"The only time you're not going to see the alert is if your program is locked," says Senior Master Sgt. Ed Willson, USAF, IWS program manager, AETC. He adds that even when people are not at a computer at the time they receive a message, the audio component will notify personnel in the vicinity of the computer that an alert has been received.

The networked alerting system takes advantage of the time personnel spend in front of computers in a way the other IWS components, Giant Voice and telephony, cannot. Giant Voice, an installationwide public address system, can reach only those people who are outdoors when they receive the message. People who go outside to hear an alarm are often being instructed to remain inside the building, as in the case of an approaching tornado. Telephony is slow and reaches only a few personnel directly, Sgt.

Signal Magazine

PAGE: Internet

POSTED: 8 May 06



AETC News Clips

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Willson says. "When we put all three together, we get the complement of being able to alert several thousand folks at once," he adds.

At Vance Air Force Base in Oklahoma, the three prongs of the IWS have been connected. By combining the three components and adding IWSAlerts to the other prongs, the command post can reach more people. According to AETC personnel, redundancy is the value of the three-prong system. Command personnel receive the information they need when they need it.

In addition to a greater coverage area, the three components give installation commanders and command post personnel flexibility in alert messaging. Installation leadership can configure the three components for each emergency. After activating Giant Voice, the command post can send networked alerting system messages simultaneously. The command also can choose to use the features separately.

By using IWSAlerts software, command post personnel can customize not only the medium of the message but also the recipients within the networked alerting system medium. With a single click in the software, messages can be sent to all devices connected to the installation network or to smaller, predetermined groups such as a hazardous substance response team.

Unlike contacting personnel through e-mail, which fails to reach people who are not sitting at a computer or those who do not check their e-mail regularly, the IWSAlerts warnings attract attention through pop-up windows and audio alerts so they reach everyone connected to the installation network. According to Guy Miasnik, chief executive officer, AtHoc, the command post can reach all personnel on base within a minute.

"It's a value from an emergency operational response perspective," Miasnik says.

Another advantage of IWSAlerts is its ability to provide recipients with detailed instructions and actionable information. For instance, if an incident occurs on an installation where a mission-oriented position posture (MOPP) has been implemented, personnel could click on the message and receive instructions on equipment and action necessary for the particular MOPP level. In another scenario, where personnel need to congregate at a predetermined location, clicking on the message will call up an installation map with the meeting area highlighted. "You can't miss it," Miasnik says. "It gets to everyone on time with a very clear message of what to do."

Miasnik says the program could be used at the command level to alert everyone in a command about an emergency, but at the AETC, Sgt. Willson notes, the emergency notifications will generally be an installation-level decision, and each wing commander is responsible for the forces below him. "IWS saves people and resources," Sgt. Willson says. He explains that those types of protection decisions will be made locally, not by the command.

The IWSAlerts software contains default instructions founded on an individual base's procedures for various emergencies. However, the alerts can be customized before being sent, allowing the command post to send specific or varying instructions depending on the situation. The customization feature improves the ability of command and control personnel to disseminate necessary information.

The combination of alerting more people faster and with more detailed information is an improvement over older approaches and a capability that is needed by base commanders. According to Sgt. Willson, the bottom line for the AETC was being able to meet the requirement to give the commander a chance to notify his or her people or resources in an effective manner. Though IWSAlerts underwent testing in the pilot phase, the technology has not yet been employed in a real-life scenario, he adds.

Signal Magazine

PAGE: Internet

POSTED: 8 May 06



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Within the AETC, the IWSAlerts is deployed in Texas at Vance Air Force Base, Randolph Air Force Base and Sheppard Air Force Base; in Arizona at Luke Air Force Base; and in Alabama at Maxwell Air Force Base. A sixth base is under contract, and remaining bases within the command will receive the system in the future.

Other Air Force commands also are looking at IWSAlerts as a way to integrate the networked alerting system into their installations. The software is fully deployed at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, and leaders at the major command under which the base falls—the Air Force Space Command—were impressed with the system's performance during an operational readiness inspection at the facility. The base communications staff had installed the software before the inspection but took advantage of the event to showcase the system. The Air Force Space Command is now considering purchasing the products for all of its bases.

At Vandenberg, IWSAlerts is not connected to the Giant Voice or telephony system, nor does it send alerts to communications devices other than computers. However, users and officials such as Lt. Col. Daniel Birrenkott, USAF, commander of the 30th Space Communications Squadron at Vandenberg note the importance of having the audio and visual alert. "The big difference between getting an e-mail and IWSAlerts is you have to be logged in and using e-mail at the time," Col. Birrenkott says. "The significant advantage is an alert is not buried in an inbox." He adds that the system gets the word out quickly and "if you're near a computer, you have to respond to it because it continues to give out audio alerts otherwise."

Vandenberg has used the program to disseminate weather warnings, and the commander also uses the software to alert personnel when an alcohol-related incident occurs or to caution personnel about alcohol use at certain times of the year, for example, over a holiday weekend. Vandenberg personnel customize each alcohol-related announcement because the system does not come prescribed with those types of warnings.

Col. Birrenkott expects weather warnings to be the most frequent messages dispersed during non-exercise conditions, and they have been so far. During exercises, he expects force protection condition updates to be sent out most frequently.

IWSAlerts fits into Vandenberg's overall warning system, augmenting other components such as the land mobile radio network for command and control operations centers and the telephone system. According to Col. Birrenkott, each element in the system has an important function. For example, using a calling tree allows for personal, validated responses to each message. The alerting system can reach everyone at a computer quickly, unlike Giant Voice or telephony. By having all the components of the message system operating, base officials increase their ability to contact personnel in an emergency.

In addition to alerting personnel to emergency situations, the colonel sees the system as a method to inform people of base incidents that affect normal routines. For example, if an automobile accident occurs at one of the gates, personnel could be advised to avoid the gate via the IWSAlerts system. "I wouldn't see IWSAlerts as a way to call the police," he says. "What you're doing is telling everyone else so they can stay out of the way."

Col. Birrenkott says that because the software could be used as a base message system for nonemergency situations such as base personnel gatherings, officials at Vandenberg are taking steps to prevent that from happening. "We're not going to allow it to be used for that," he says. "It has to fit within the definition of command and control."

Signal Magazine

PAGE: Internet

POSTED: 8 May 06



AETC News Clips

Randolph AFB, Texas



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In other areas of the Air Force, Pacific Air Forces is running a pilot of the program, and other military branches are interested, too. For example, the commander for Navy installations conducted a study of the most cost-effective ways to protect facilities. Having an area-wide alert/notification system on base received the second highest cost-to-benefit ratio after implementing a decision-making process. According to Miasnik, his company is working with the U.S. Navy to install the system at Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia, where a pilot program already has taken place, and then to expand the system to other bases.

In the U.S. Army, the system is deployed at Fort Riley, Kansas. According to Miasnik, AtHoc and the Army are making arrangements to install the system at other bases.

The software can be up and running in three to five days, Miasnik notes. A team from his company installs the system on-site, trains command post staff and information technology personnel and customizes for any specific base procedures. "Literally, within a week, you have it," Miasnik says.

Web Resources

AtHoc Incorporated: www.athoc.com

Air Education and Training Command: www.aetc.randolph.af.mil

Vance Air Force Base: www.vance.af.mil

Vandenberg Air Force Base: www.vandenberg.af.mil

Signal Magazine

PAGE: Internet

POSTED: 8 May 06



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Goodfellow AFB, Texas



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08 May 06

Power plant proposed

Approach may solve landfill's methane issue

By ERIC FINLEY
San Angelo Standard-Times
May 4, 2006

San Angelo City Manager Harold Dominguez said it could be one of the biggest projects City Hall has undertaken in years - building a power plant that might one day generate an annual profit of \$12 million.

The City Council on Tuesday agreed to work with a private company toward building the plant. The city would take methane from the landfill and water treatment plant and use it to burn trash from the landfill to create electricity.

Remembering residents' backlash against the faith-based prison proposal before the county, city officials are wasting no time meeting with them. City Councilman Emilio Perez-Jimenez, who represents the area of San Angelo adjacent to the proposed plant site, will conduct a town hall meeting tonight with Dominguez.

"I believe (City Hall) has every obligation to inform the public before they get misinformation," Perez-Jimenez said. "My idea, and goal, is to keep them informed about what this plan is all about."

It's not cheap. Estimates put the cost to build the plant between \$24 million and \$100 million, depending on the plant's size. City Hall believes it could be the best solution to fix a growing methane problem in the landfill - and save space there.

Add the potential revenue from electric sales and from charging other communities to dump trash, Dominguez said, and it's a project worth trying.

"We have to (remove the methane) from the landfill," Dominguez said. "But instead of just flaring it off, then we are going to use it to generate electricity."

The proposal must still overcome a series of hurdles, such as obtaining several permits from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

TCEQ has told the city it must remove the methane from its aging landfill or face financial penalties. Landfills naturally produce methane as garbage deteriorates.

A site for the power plant hasn't been determined, but the necessity to have it near the landfill would probably put it on city-owned property east of San Angelo's city limits.

Tom Green County commissioners recently decided against moving forward with a privately run prison. Its tentative site was in the same area.

Under the plan, City Hall would build the plant with money issued through bonds. Cities, unlike school districts, don't have to hold elections to issue bonds.

San Angelo Standard Times
PAGE: Internet
POSTED: 08 May 06



AETC News Clips

Goodfellow AFB, Texas



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08 May 06

Siemens Building Technologies would operate the plant because the city lacks staff members with expertise to run an electric plant.

The plan is to generate eight to 10 megawatts of power initially and sell it to three Air Force bases - Goodfellow in San Angelo, Laughlin in Del Rio and Sheppard in Wichita Falls - at a rate sufficient to pay off the project's debt in 15 years.

A megawatt, or 1 million watts, can provide enough power for 300 to 400 homes in Texas at any given moment.

Goodfellow spokeswoman Cheri Dedrick referred questions about the proposal to a spokeswoman with the Air Education and Training Command in San Antonio. The spokeswoman was not available for comment Wednesday. All three bases operate under the Air Education and Training Command.

Revenue from the contracts would pay off the debt for the plant, Dominguez said, and the city would probably seek other potential customers as well.

During a presentation to the council in November, Siemens estimated the city could bring in \$12 million a year in profit once the plant is paid off after 15 years. That's more than half the amount the city collects in property taxes, and the money could go toward better infrastructure or property-tax relief, Dominguez said.

If Siemens or the city can't get the proper permits from the state, "We both go our separate ways," Dominguez said. "If anything doesn't make this feasible, we go our separate ways."

However, if the city backs out on its own, it will owe Siemens \$400,000 for its work.

The city already is moving forward with a plan to build a system of flares at the landfill and burn off the methane. The project would cost about \$2.3 million. The city probably will issue bonds to pay for the project.

The city hopes that's only a short-term fix until a power plant is constructed.

The plan already has support from environmentally conscious groups.

"We support the use of methane from trash or landfills to generate electricity," said Tom Smith, director of the Texas office of Public Citizen, a consumer and environmental group.

Waste-to-energy plants such as the one San Angelo is proposing are required to filter the exhaust produced from burning trash. The result is exhaust much cleaner than traditional trash burns, which can be harmful to the environment, Smith said.

"It's a win-win-win for the community," he said. "It doesn't stink, and it gets rid of methane, which is 20 times more potent to global warming than carbon dioxide."

If you go

What: Town Hall meeting on proposed electric plant.

San Angelo Standard Times

PAGE: Internet

POSTED: 08 May 06



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08 May 06

When: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. today.

Where: Holliman Elementary School, 1900 Ricks Drive.

By the numbers

The city of San Angelo is considering building a power plant that would dispose of methane naturally produced at the landfill and wastewater treatment plant, using it to burn trash.

Here's a quick breakdown of the proposal:

\$24 million to \$100 million: Cost to build the plant.

\$12 million: Potential annual revenue once the plant's debt is paid off.

\$20 million: Amount the city collects annually in property taxes.

\$2.3 million: Cost for system of flares that will be put in place at the landfill to burn off the methane there, at least in the meantime.

15: Years it would take to pay for the plant.

3: Air Force bases that would buy electricity from the plant.

8 to 10: Megawatts the plant would produce initially.

4,000: Maximum number of homes the plant could power, approximately, at that size.

15: Texas cities already producing electricity with methane plants.

62.8: Megawatts those plants produce.

2,000: Megawatts of wind energy produced in Texas.

Sources: City of San Angelo and The Texas Renewable Energy Industries Association

San Angelo Standard Times

PAGE: Internet

POSTED: 08 May 06



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Laughlin AFB, Texas



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To Whom It May Concern

Editor,

I have been informed by Brig. Gen. Gagliardi of a pending large residential development on the perimeter of Laughlin Air Force Base.

While the relationships between Laughlin Air Force Base and the community of Del Rio have been among the finest and best of any base in the United States, I must voice my concern over the City's support of a venture such as this.

While I was Commander from 1975-77 a review was conducted of a proposal to close two Air Training Command bases.

The very idea of losing Laughlin was almost a paralysis to the city Leadership, obviously as almost one third of the county population was directly or indirectly associated with the base.

Fortunately for both the Air Force and Del Rio, the decision to close Reese Air Force Base in Lubbock and Craig Air Force Base in Alabama followed.

While the base may not be the major economic driver it once was I am certain it ranks pretty high on the list.

The most recent BRAC decision process spared Laughlin and in fact added to the mission and personnel.

I was pleased with the reinforcement of Laughlin as a military asset of great value.

The idea however of a city losing a military base should not come as a surprise to any community.

The factors that lead to such decisions rest on such things as community support, but primarily on the viability of a base fulfilling its mission without external factors limiting operations.

Some bases have been restricted by limiting operating hours, night time training, space viability and availability, etc., factors which have always put Laughlin ahead of the pack.

It is not unheard of for a community to grow in such a manner that normal training, becomes a nuisance and there follows attempts to restrict operations.

I never experienced in my 37 years the warm welcome I felt in Del Rio as the Wing Commander and continue to hold the community and city leadership in high esteem.

I urge careful consideration before the proposed development next to Laughlin AFB is given final approval.

Del Rio News

PAGE:

ISSUE DATE: 08 May 06



AETC News Clips

Vance AFB, Okla.



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Enid News & Eagle

May 07, 2006

Bush stops over in Enid

Staff reports

About 50 people were on hand at Vance Air Force Base Saturday morning to see Air Force One bring President George W. Bush on the first leg of his trip to Stillwater to speak at Oklahoma State University's commencement.

Other residents who couldn't get on base watched from nearby roadways as Air Force One broke through the overcast and landed at 8:50 a.m.

On hand to greet him were U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe and Lt. Gov. Mary Fallin.

After presenting the President's Volunteer Service Award to OSU junior William "B.J." O'Connor, Bush boarded Marine One for the helicopter flight to Stillwater.

On the return trip to Vance, the president was about 15 minutes ahead of schedule, and he took time to speak with a substantially larger crowd — about 300 people.

Bush shook hands with residents and Mayor Ernie Currier, even taking time to pose for a photo with a baby.

He then boarded Air Force One and left Vance bound for Washington, D.C., about 11:20 a.m. as people in the crowd waved their goodbyes.

Enid News & Eagle

PAGE: Internet

DATE 08 May 06



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Vance AFB, Okla.



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Enid Mayor Ernie Currier (above) speaks to President George W. Bush at Vance Air Force Base. The president was on his way to Boone Pickens Stadium Saturday in Stillwater, where he spoke to a commencement crowd of about 20,000. (Staff Photo by KYLE NOSAL)



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President George W. Bush waves to the crowd before boarding Marine One Saturday morning at Vance Air Force Base in Enid. Bush landed in Enid on his way to speak during a commencement ceremony at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. (Staff Photo by KYLE NOSAL)

Enid News & Eagle

PAGE: Internet

DATE 08 May 06



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Air Force One (left), a modified Boeing 747-200B, lands at Vance Air Force Base. President George W. Bush landed in Enid on his way to speak during a commencement ceremony at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. (Staff Photo by KYLE NOSAL)

President awards student

By Augie Frost
The Oklahoman

ENID - Before heading to Stillwater to speak at Oklahoma State University's graduation, President Bush stopped at Vance Air Force Base to change aircraft and give an award to an OSU junior.

At 8:49 a.m., Air Force One appeared on the cloudy western horizon. Two minutes later, the presidential plane was safely on the ground and taxiing toward a crowd of waiting onlookers.

William "B.J." O'Connor, 21, stood nervously as the president stepped out of the plane, waved and walked down the steps to meet local politicians and base officials. O'Connor and Bush met under the plane's fuselage, sharing a long handshake.

The president then gave the civil engineering student a pin honoring O'Connor with the President's Call to Service Award, an award given for exceptional volunteer work.

"He said, 'Congratulations, and thank you for your service,'" O'Connor said.

He laughed about something else the president said during the brief ceremony.

"He called me a stud, actually," O'Connor said. "I was pretty shocked about that."

O'Connor said he thanked Bush for coming to Oklahoma.

Enid News & Eagle

PAGE: Internet

DATE 08 May 06



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Vance AFB, Okla.



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"I told him on behalf of the Stillwater community and OSU, that we are very grateful for him coming to speak at our graduation and that I think he has done a great job leading our country," O'Connor said.

The award was given in appreciation for O'Connor's community service, which includes his work in post-hurricane New Orleans.

While many of his classmates went to the beach on spring break, O'Connor led a group of 10 people in cleaning up homes that were destroyed by the hurricane.

After receiving his award, O'Connor walked off the tarmac and back to a waiting crowd, while the president boarded Marine One for the ride to Stillwater. The helicopter, followed by four others, lifted off at 9:12 a.m.

At 10:56 a.m., Marine One was back on the ground at Vance. Bush swiftly stepped out and waved as he strode toward a cheering crowd. He walked the length of a barricade, shaking hands and sharing smiles.

One of those in the crowd was Betsy Kriner, who held a sign that said, "It's my 17th birthday today."

The president stopped, hugged her and posed for a photo while wishing her a happy birthday.

Bush climbed the staircase to the plane, turned and gave one final wave to the crowd. At 11:20 a.m., Air Force One was airborne.

President gets warm welcome, offers graduates encouragement

By Ryan McNeill
The Oklahoman

STILLWATER -- President Bush got a friendly welcome Saturday at Oklahoma State University, where he told students they face "unimagined opportunities" upon entering the job market.

A steady mist fell throughout most of Bush's short speech, which avoided hot-button policy issues such as the war in Iraq.

Bush's only mention of the war, which has spawned criticism, came after praising former OSU student Luke James, who died in Iraq as an officer in the 82nd Airborne Division after receiving his commission as a lieutenant in 2004.

James, a husband and father, received the Bronze Star and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Twenty-seven Army or Air Force lieutenants received commissions Saturday with their OSU degrees, Bush said.

Enid News & Eagle

PAGE: Internet

DATE 08 May 06



AETC News Clips

Vance AFB, Okla.



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"While no soldier wants war, he understood the necessity of war - that it can ensure the freedoms we enjoy in America," Bush said. "Luke James is part of a generation who are every bit as selfless and dedicated to liberty as any that has come before, and our future is better because of the character of young Americans like Luke James."

Bush arrived in Stillwater aboard Marine One, which soared over Boone Pickens Stadium as part of a fleet of helicopters while the crowd cheered. Before his arrival, a lone unmarked helicopter circled above the stadium.

Bush originally landed in Oklahoma shortly before 9 a.m. aboard Air Force One. That landing was broadcast on the stadium's JumboTron to cheers from students.

Shortly after stepping off the Boeing 747 at Vance Air Force Base in Enid, he presented a volunteer award to an OSU student.

The president's speech was not interrupted, though several students were seen with peace symbols taped on the top of their mortar boards. At least 350 demonstrators, both pro- and anti-Bush, were outside the stadium in a designated area about a block away.

World events were referenced only when the president noted what he called the "advancement of freedom." Bush said more people live in liberty today than ever before.

"The advance of liberty is the story of our time, and we're seeing new chapters written before our eyes," the president said. "Freedom is taking root in places where liberty was once unimaginable."

Bush warned against protectionism in America, saying increasing economic threats from countries like India and China are an opportunity for the nation to excel.

Protectionism is a "sure path to stagnation and decline," Bush said.

Rapidly changing technology presents opportunities to graduates, but also poses dilemmas, he said. Technology such as the Internet can bring the world to someone's doorstep, but also isolate them.

"My advice is harness the promise of technology without becoming slaves to technology," he said.

It was the third time a president has given the commencement speech at OSU, which has nearly 22,000 students on its Stillwater campus. Former presidents Richard Nixon and George H.W. Bush previously spoke.

Like the elder Bush, the president began his speech with a reference to his wife's absence and a popular Stillwater watering hole. "She was disappointed to learn I'd planned a romantic dinner for two at Eskimo Joe's."

The president poked fun at an image popular among his critics at home and abroad.



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"If you read the papers, you know that when some want to criticize me, they call me a cowboy," Bush said. "This cowboy is proud to be standing here in the midst of a lot of other cowboys."



President George W. Bush puts his arm around Betsy Kriner, who held a sign saying today was her 17th birthday. Bush stopped and had his picture taken with her while he was mingling with well wishers who had gathered to bid him farewell when he departed from Vance Air Force Base Saturday morning, Saturday, May 6, 2006. He returned to the base by helicopter from Stillwater where he had just delivered an address at graduation ceremony at Oklahoma State University. She is the daughter of Col. Kevin and Mary Kriner. Col. Kriner is the Commander of the 71st Operations Group at Vance AFB. By Jim Beckel /The Oklahoman.

Enid News & Eagle

PAGE: Internet

DATE 08 May 06



AETC News Clips

Vance AFB, Okla.



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Arrival of President George W. Bush at Vance Air Force Base Saturday morning, Saturday, May 6, 2006. Here, he laughs as he greets distinguished guests who greeted him as he stepped off Air Force One. He traveled by helicopter to Stillwater where he delivered an address at graduation ceremony at Oklahoma State University. By Jim Beckel /The Oklahoman.



Enid News & Eagle

PAGE: Internet

DATE 08 May 06



AETC News Clips

Vance AFB, Okla.



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President George W. Bush reaches into crowd of well wishers after returning to Vance Air Force Base in Marine One following his address at graduation ceremonies at Oklahoma State University Saturday morning, Saturday, May 6, 2006. .By Jim Beckel /The Oklahoman.



Arrival of President George W. Bush at Vance Air Force Base Saturday morning, Saturday, May 6, 2006. He stops to talk to Enid Mayor Ernie Currier and his wife, Debbie. He traveled by helicopter to Stillwater where he delivered an address at graduation ceremony at Oklahoma State University. By Jim Beckel /The Oklahoman.

Tulsa grad gets award from Bush

By BARBARA HOBEROCK World Capitol Bureau
5/7/2006

[View in Print \(PDF\) Format](#)

VANCE AIR FORCE BASE -- William "B.J." O'Connor got some unexpected words of praise Saturday as he picked up an award for his volunteer work from President Bush.

"He called me stud, actually," O'Connor said, a smile crossing his face. "I was pretty shocked about that."

Bush awarded the 21-year-old Oklahoma State University student from Tulsa with the President's Volunteer Service Award.

Enid News & Eagle

PAGE: Internet

DATE 08 May 06



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Standing next to Air Force One after its arrival at Vance Air Force Base in Enid, O'Connor shook the president's hand and received a lapel pin before Bush boarded one of five helicopters headed for Stillwater and OSU's commencement ceremony.

"I am still in shock," O'Connor said. "I'm amazed."

The junior majoring in civil engineering said Bush thanked him for his volunteer work. O'Connor recently spent spring break in New Orleans helping with the cleanup after Hurricane Katrina. He went with Campus Crusade for Christ and led a 10-member team that gutted homes deemed unsuitable for habitation.

O'Connor, a Bishop Kelley High School graduate, learned Wednesday evening that he was to receive the award for his volunteer work. He immediately called his parents, John and Lucia O'Connor.

John O'Connor, a Tulsa attorney, watched the event on television.

"I thought it was phenomenal," he said.

His son's high school required students to do volunteer work, he said. His wife also has been an active volunteer.

Volunteer service teaches youth to get out and see people who have needs, gives them a chance to help with those needs and affords them an opportunity to change lives, he said.

More than 490 people have received the President's Volunteer Service Award since Bush started the program a few years ago. Recipients get a commemorative pin, a note from the president, a certificate of achievement and a letter from the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.

O'Connor said he thanked Bush on behalf of the OSU and Stillwater community for coming to speak at commencement.

"I have never experienced anything near this," he said.

Traveling with Bush on board Air Force One were oilman and OSU alumni Boone Pickens, and Oklahoma Republican U.S. Reps. Tom Cole, John Sullivan and Ernest Istook. On hand to greet the president when he arrived in Enid were U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla.; Lt. Gov. Mary Fallin; state House Speaker Todd Hiett, R-Kellyville; and state Rep. Terry Ingmire, R-Stillwater.

Later, on his way back to Air Force One after speaking in Stillwater, Bush stopped to greet a crowd that had passed through hand-held metal detectors in a hangar.